

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stowell et al. (US Patent App. 20020099579) in view of Wu et al. (An Approach of Modeling, Monitoring and Managing Business Operations for Just-In Time Manufacturing). The Examiner stated essentially that the combined teachings of Stowell and Wu teach or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1-20.

Referring to the Wu reference; Applicants believe that the publication date of the paper is not 2002 as indicated in the Notice of References Cited, but between July 27-30, 2003 where the paper was published as part of the seventh World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (SCI 2003), Orlando, Florida. Accordingly, Wu does not pre-date the present application and is not believed to be prior art for purposes of the present application (filing date July 11, 2003). If the Examiner is relying on an alternate citation, such citation is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 claim, *inter alia*, "executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities" (emphasis added).

Stowell teaches a stateless, event-monitoring server system for use in monitoring performance between buyers and suppliers (see Abstract). Stowell does not teach or suggest

“executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11. Stowell teaches that relevant pieces of data between buyer and supplier are extracted from commitments in the normal flow of e-commerce messages (see paragraphs [0093] and [0104]). Stowell extracts information from messages, for example, a EDI/XML or spreadsheets in messages. Stowell relies on a message passing through a remote management server system before a KPI may be calculated and does not teach the use of an integrated set of applications enabling interactions. Such messages and remote management server system are not analogous to “an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities” as claimed. Stowell’s messages and remote management server system are stand alone elements and are not integrated into the business process. Therefore, Stowell does not teach or suggest all the limitations of Claims 1 and 11.

Wu is not believed to be prior art for purposes of the present application. Therefore, Wu does cure the deficiencies of Stowell.

The teachings of Stowell fail to teach or suggest “executing a business process that comprises an integrated set of applications that enable interactions between a plurality of entities; and managing the execution of the business process using business commitment specifications that describe one or more business commitments among said entities” as claimed in Claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2-10 depend from Claim 1. Claims 12-20 depend from Claim 11. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the forgoing reasons, the application, including Claims 1-20, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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